



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



JUNE 28, 2002

Hot News!

Prescription Drug

Yesterday on the House floor, the Republican leadership prohibited Democrats from amending their bill or offering an alternative prescription drug bill. The House only debated the Republican bill until early this morning, when it finally passed by a slim majority.

Unfortunately, the Republican passed bill does not guarantee prescription drug coverage under Medicare, it is merely a suggestion that private health plans offer coverage. Seniors will have to purchase a separate "drug only" insurance policy and there is no assurance that they will be able to use their regular pharmacy or get the exact medication their doctor prescribes.

In addition, the Republican bill offers zero prescription drug coverage for medication costs for seniors that run between \$2000 and \$3700 but would still require them to pay a monthly premium.

The Democratic bill, sponsored by Rep. McCollum, provides that for a voluntary drug premium of \$25/month, the government will pay 80% of drug costs after a \$100 deductible, and no senior will have to pay more than \$2,000 in costs/year. This plan arms seniors with real protection from soaring drug costs.

Betty's Key Votes This Week

Voted "No" on HR 4954— Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002; passed House by a vote of 221 to 208

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Voted "No" on S 2578— Amends title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit; passed House by a vote of 215 –214

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Voted "No" on Hres 450 - Andean Trade Preference Act ; passed House by a vote of 216 - 215

"Pic" of the Week



Hannah Wright, a senior at St. Paul Academy, has been named a 2002 Presidential Scholar and was in Washington as part of the Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week. She is pictured here with her parents,

In Betty's Words

"Public education, the foundation of our democracy, was cracked today by this Supreme Court ruling. This decision will divert limited tax dollars away from public schools to fund private organizations. This is the start of the 'privatization' of education for all of America's children."

--In Response to Supreme Court Ruling; June 27, 2002

Coming to the House Floor

**Betty will be in Minnesota next week celebrating the 4th of July with family and friends.
The House will convene again on
Monday July 8, 2002!**

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

Washington Office: 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

St. Paul Office: 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056

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